

PUNISHER

“

Don't come home
again. Until you're
coming home.

”



MARVEL 10

AARON
SAIZ
AZACETA
HOLLINGSWORTH

AFTER RETIRED MARINE FRANK CASTLE'S WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE KILLED BY STRAY GUNFIRE DURING A SHOOT-OUT IN CENTRAL PARK, HE BEGAN A ONE-MAN VIGILANTE WAR ON CRIME. ARMED WITH A VAST ARSENAL AND GRIM DETERMINATION, HE BECAME THE...

PUNISHER

THE CULT OF ASSASSINS KNOWN AS THE HAND MADE FRANK CASTLE AN OFFER HE COULDN'T REFUSE: BECOME THEIR HIGH SLAYER IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RESURRECTION OF HIS LONG-DEAD WIFE, MARIA. FRANK NOW SERVES AS THE HAND'S FIST OF THE BEAST, RESIDING IN THEIR FORTRESS IN JAPAN ALONG WITH MARIA. FRANK HAS ALSO BEEN MANIFESTING SUPERNATURAL ABILITIES DUE TO HIS GROWING CONNECTION TO THE DEMONIC BEAST, A CAUSE OF CONCERN AMONG HIS OLD ALLIES.

ARES, THE GOD OF WAR, WAS ANGERED BY FRANK'S ALLIANCE WITH THE HAND AND LED AN ARMY TO THEIR STRONGHOLD FOR A FINAL CONFRONTATION. AFTER A BRUTAL BATTLE, FRANK KILLED ARES AND FULLY EMBRACED HIS NEW POWERS. MEANWHILE, THE ARCHPRIESTESS OF THE HAND WAS DISTURBED BY FRANK'S RENEWED BOND WITH MARIA.

THE KING OF KILLERS

Book TWO, Chapter FOUR

"BRIDE OF THE PUNISHER"

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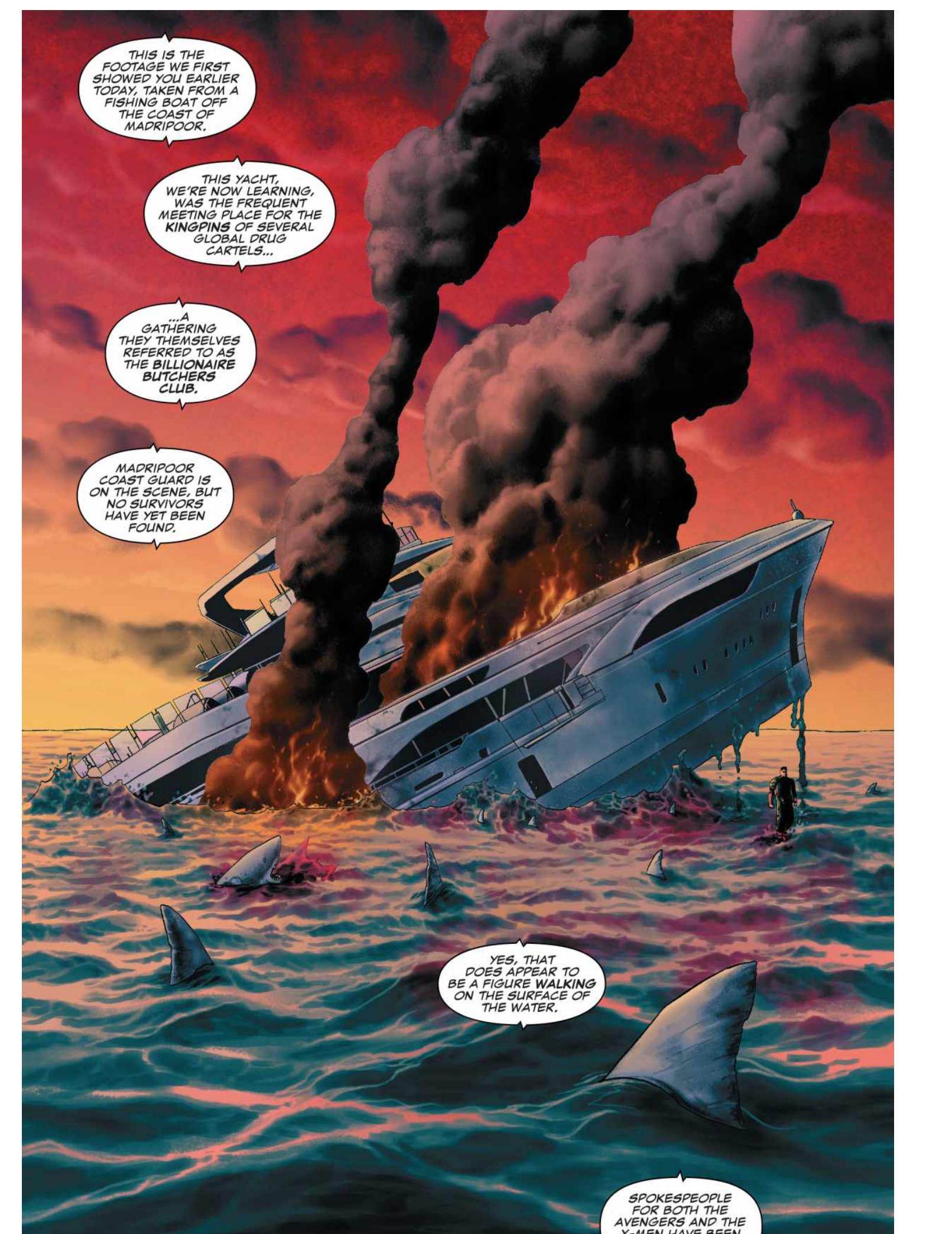
AT
APPROXIMATELY
11 A.M. LOCAL TIME, AN
ARGENTINIAN COMMERCIAL
FLIGHT REPORTED THAT
THEY HAD FLOWN INTO
THE UNTHINKABLE.

A HAIL OF
HUMAN BODY PARTS
AT 40,000 FEET.

THAT'S WHEN
THE CELL PHONE
VIDEO YOU'RE
SEEING NOW WAS
CAPTURED.

THE JET SEEN
HERE REPORTEDLY
BELONGS TO ACCUSED
SEX TRAFFICKER
AUGUST SMYTHE, WHO
HAS BEEN EVADING
INTERNATIONAL
AUTHORITIES FOR
MONTHS NOW...

...WHILE STILL
HOSTING LAVISH
PARTIES FOR HIS
WEALTHY AND
POWERFUL
PATRONS.



THIS IS THE
FOOTAGE WE FIRST
SHOWED YOU EARLIER
TODAY, TAKEN FROM A
FISHING BOAT OFF
THE COAST OF
MADRIPOOR.

THIS YACHT,
WE'RE NOW LEARNING,
WAS THE FREQUENT
MEETING PLACE FOR THE
KINGPINS OF SEVERAL
GLOBAL DRUG
CARTELS...

...A
GATHERING
THEY THEMSELVES
REFERRED TO AS
THE BILLIONAIRE
BUTCHERS
CLUB.

MADRIPOOR
COAST GUARD IS
ON THE SCENE, BUT
NO SURVIVORS
HAVE YET BEEN
FOUND.

YES, THAT
DOES APPEAR TO
BE A FIGURE WALKING
ON THE SURFACE OF
THE WATER.

SPOKESPEOPLE
FOR BOTH THE
AVENGERS AND THE
X-MEN HAVE BEEN
QUICK TO DENY
INVOLVEMENT.



PAUL, WE'RE NOW GETTING WORD OF MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF GUNFIRE HAPPENING IN AND AROUND A PRIVATE BUNKER IN THE MOUNTAINS OF TRANSIA...

...A BUNKER BELONGING TO DISGRACED SYMKARIAN WAR CRIMINAL GENERAL ILYA VOXX.



THE GENERAL HAS FAMOUSLY VOWED TO NEVER SUBMIT TO INTERNATIONAL PROSECUTION, BOASTING THAT HIS BUNKER IS COMPLETELY IMPENETRABLE.



"PUNISHER-PROOF" WERE HIS EXACT WORDS.

HGGHK!

IT'S HARD TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE TODAY, BUT I THINK THERE'S ONE THING WE CAN SAFELY SAY





DID YOUR...
WORK...GO
WELL?



BETTER
THAN EVER.



GOOD.

SO, DOES
THAT MEAN
THAT YOU'RE
FINISHED
NOW?



ALMOST.



"ALMOST,"
YOU SAID THE
SAME THING
YEST--

I
NEED TO
REST.







EVEN THE
POWER OF GOD
HAS ITS LIMITS.

THAT'S
NOT GOD.

AND MAYBE
IT'S YOU WHO
HAS LIMITS,
PRIESTESS.



WE NEED
NOT BE
ENEMIES,
MARIA.

YOU MAY
BE HIS BRIDE,
BUT WE ARE BOTH
WEDDED TO FRANK
IN OUR OWN WAY,
AND WE BOTH
WANT WHAT IS
BEST FOR
HIM.



I WANT HIM
TO DO WHAT
HE SAYS.

I WANT
HIM TO TURN
AWAY FROM WHATEVER
NONSENSE YOU'VE GOTTEN
HIM INVOLVED WITH
AND BE WITH THE ONLY
FAMILY HE HAS LEFT.



YOU HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
HE'S DONE FOR
HIS FAMILY.

HOW HE'S
SUFFERED...IN
THE VAIN ATTEMPT
TO MAKE **YOU**
HAPPY.



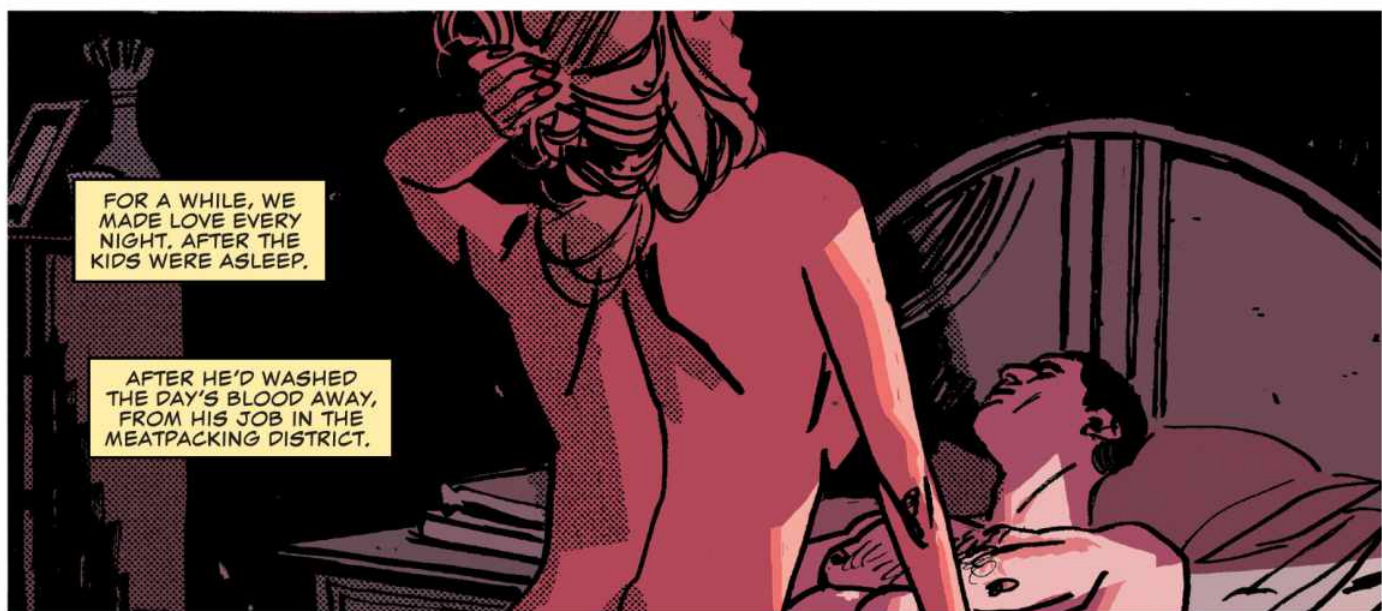
WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN?

YOU'RE THE
QUEEN OF THE
CITADEL NOW, OR
SO YOU SEEM
TO BELIEVE.



FIGURE
IT OUT
YOURSELF.

YOUR
HIGHNESS.



FOR A WHILE, WE
MADE LOVE EVERY
NIGHT. AFTER THE
KIDS WERE ASLEEP.

AFTER HE'D WASHED
THE DAY'S BLOOD AWAY,
FROM HIS JOB IN THE
MEATPACKING DISTRICT.



WE WEREN'T THE KIND OF
COUPLE WHO HAD LONG,
DEEP CONVERSATIONS.

WE LOVED EACH
OTHER WITH *TOUCH*
MORE THAN WORDS.



WORDS
ALWAYS SEEMED
TO FAIL US.

FRANK...

WHAT
WOULD YOU
THINK IF I SAID...
I MIGHT LIKE TO
STOP TAKING MY
BIRTH CONTROL
PILLS?



THIS TIME...
WE'D BE DOING IT
TOGETHER. WITHOUT
ANY WAR COMING
BETWEEN US.

FRANK...
YOU CAN BE
HONEST.

HONESTLY...



...I THINK
I'LL NEED
A SECOND
JOB.

MAYBE...I SHOULD'VE
NEVER SAID ANYTHING.
AND JUST BEEN CONTENT



OR MAYBE WHAT
HAPPENED NEXT
WAS ALWAYS
INEVITABLE...

...NO MATTER HOW
HARD WE TRIED TO





OKAY.
GOODBYE?

SO OFTEN,
IT'S THE
LITTLE THINGS
WE NOTICE, THAT
GIVE US AWAY.



I HARDLY EVER LOOKED
AT THE **NEWSPAPER**. I
DIDN'T LIKE READING ABOUT
ALL THOSE SHOOTINGS
AND SPIDER-MENACES
IN THE CITY.

BUT HE STILL ALWAYS
LEFT IT FOR ME WHEN
HE WAS DONE.



I THINK HE'S JUST
NEVER BEEN VERY
GOOD AT KEEPING
A **SECRET**.



FRANK CASTLE IS MANY
THINGS...SOME FAR MORE
FRIGHTENING THAN OTHERS...



...BUT I DON'T
THINK HE'S
EVER BEEN
MUCH OF A **LIAR**.



I COULD'VE JUST
ASKED HIM ABOUT
IT, I SUPPOSE.

I MEAN, IT'S NOT
LIKE I'D CAUGHT HIM
IN BED WITH
ANOTHER WOMAN.

THOUGH
SOMEHOW,
I KNEW...



...IT WAS SOMETHING MUCH WORSE.



I DID SOME DIGGING, CALLED SOME OTHER WIVES. TURNS OUT AN OLD MARINE BUDDY OF FRANK'S WORKED AS A PRISON GUARD AT RYKER'S ISLAND.

FRANK HAD STARTED PAYING HIM TO GET ONTO THE GUEST LIST...



...WHENEVER THERE WAS AN EXECUTION SCHEDULED.



HE CAME IN QUIETLY. NEVER SAID ANYTHING TO ANYONE. APPARENTLY HE





THE NIGHTS AFTER
AN EXECUTION,
HE'D FALL RIGHT TO
SLEEP AS SOON AS
HE CAME HOME.

FRANK?

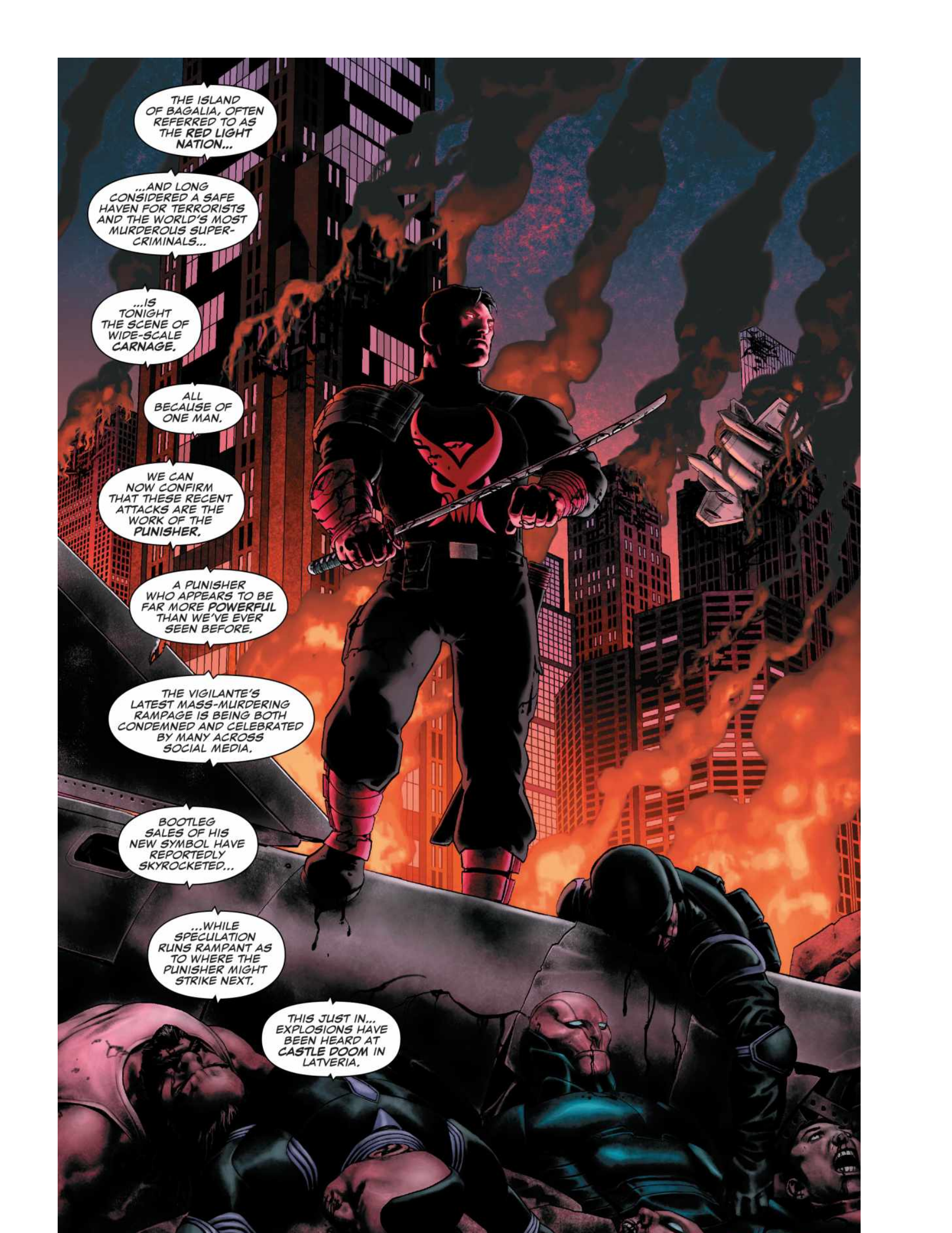


SO HE WOULDN'T
HAVE TO TOUCH
HIS WIFE...



...SO SOON
AFTER BEING WITH
HIS LOVER.



The Punisher, in his iconic black tactical suit with a red skull emblem, stands prominently on a rooftop. He holds a combat knife in his right hand. The background is a dramatic scene of a city at night, with skyscrapers and thick, billowing black smoke and orange flames rising from the ground. In the foreground, several bodies of people lie motionless on the rooftop surface. The overall tone is dark and intense, with a high-contrast color palette of reds, oranges, and blacks.

THE ISLAND
OF BAGALIA, OFTEN
REFERRED TO AS
THE RED LIGHT
NATION...

...AND LONG
CONSIDERED A SAFE
HAVEN FOR TERRORISTS
AND THE WORLD'S MOST
MURDEROUS SUPER-
CRIMINALS...

...IS
TONIGHT
THE SCENE OF
WIDE-SCALE
CARNAGE.

ALL
BECAUSE OF
ONE MAN.

WE CAN
NOW CONFIRM
THAT THESE RECENT
ATTACKS ARE THE
WORK OF THE
PUNISHER.

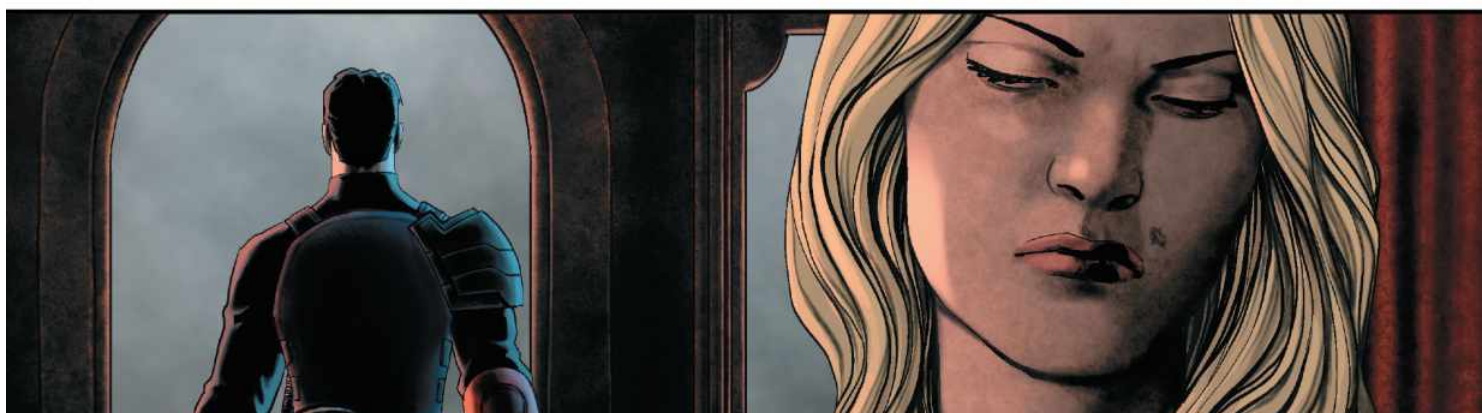
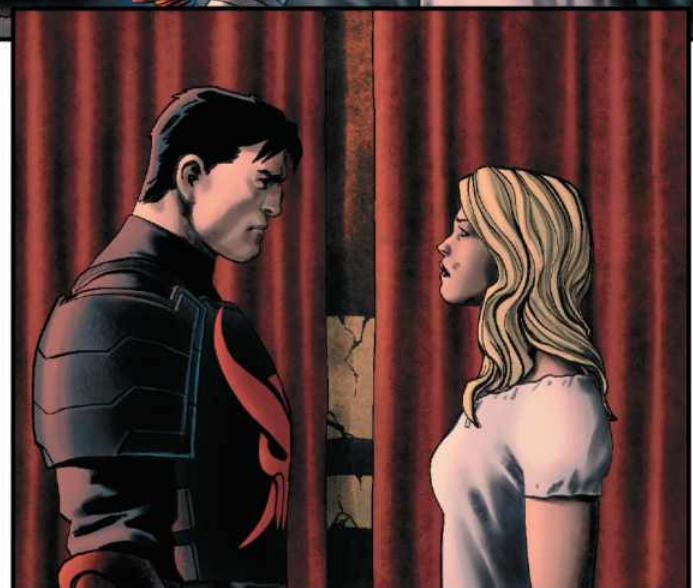
A PUNISHER
WHO APPEARS TO BE
FAR MORE POWERFUL
THAN WE'VE EVER
SEEN BEFORE.

THE VIGILANTE'S
LATEST MASS-MURDERING
RAMPAGE IS BEING BOTH
CONDEMNED AND CELEBRATED
BY MANY ACROSS
SOCIAL MEDIA.

BOOTLEG
SALES OF HIS
NEW SYMBOL HAVE
REPORTEDLY
SKYROCKETED...

...WHILE
SPECULATION
RUNS RAMPANT AS
TO WHERE THE
PUNISHER MIGHT
STRIKE NEXT.

THIS JUST IN...
EXPLOSIONS HAVE
BEEN HEARD AT
CASTLE DOOM IN
LATVERIA.





A BLESSED
BLOODY MORNING,
LORD HIGH
SLAYER.

FOR TODAY,
THERE ARE BUT
A FEW NAMES LEFT
ON THE LIST.

NO.



THERE ARE
OTHERS.

WRITE
DOWN THESE
NAMES.



YOU!



I AM THE
BRIDE OF FRANK
CASTLE, THE MAN
TO WHOM YOU
BOW.

SO YOU
WILL TAKE ME
THROUGH EVERY
SINGLE ROOM OF
THIS CITADEL UNTIL
I FIND WHAT I'M
LOOKING
FOR.

STARTING
NOW.

HOOCH 13

THE NEXT TIME FRANK LEFT FOR HIS "NIGHT JOB," I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO CONFRONT HIM.

ALL SERVICE
BRANCHES
WELCOME
EVEN THE NAVY

I KNEW HE LIKED TO GO FOR A DRINK AFTER, TO LET THE SCENT OF HIS LOVER LINGER, I SUPPOSE...

...BEFORE COMING HOME TO HIS WIFE, WHERE HE HAD TO SHOWER IT AWAY.

I COULD TELL THAT FRANK WAS IN A SOUR MOOD.

TURNS OUT THE GOVERNOR HAD SIGNED A LAST MINUTE STAY OF EXECUTION.

IT WAS A BAR FULL OF VETERANS, WHO'D BEEN LAUGHING AND LOUDLY SWAPPING WAR STORIES FOR HOURS.

UNTIL FRANK CAME IN.

CAPTAIN CASTLE, SIR.

SIR.

SEMPER FI, SIR.



OKAY,
FRANK, HERE
COMES THE
AMBUSH.



MAN, ALL
THOSE WAR
MOVIES, THEY
NEVER GET #&@%
RIGHT, DO
THEY?



HE'D BEEN LOUD AND
DRUNK ALL EVENING.
BUT HE SUDDENLY GOT
EVEN LOUDER ONCE
FRANK WAS THERE.

THEY'RE
ALWAYS ALL
LIKE, "WAR IS HELL."
OH, POOR US WHO
HAD TO GO FIGHT
IT, RIGHT?

NOT A
ONE OF 'EM
EVER TELLS YOU
HOW FREAKING
AWESOME
IT IS.



PAL, SIT
DOWN AND
SHUT THE
HELL UP.

I MEAN, I
WAS NO MARINE
OR NOTHING, BUT I
WAS WITH **BLACKGUARD**
FOR THREE YEARS,
KICKING ASS FOR **ROXXON**
IN SOME OF THE
WORLD'S SLIMIEST
HELLHOLES.

'LEAST UNTIL
THE CRYBABIES
IN **CONGRESS**
SHUT US
DOWN.



MY BODY
COUNT WAS THE
STUFF OF LEGEND--
YOU ASK
ANYBODY.

AND THEM
WAS JUST THE
ONES THEY KNEW
ABOUT. HEH.

EVERYONE
COULD SEE
WHAT WAS
COMING.



AND NO ONE DID
A THING TO STOP
IT. INCLUDING ME.

PEOPLE
WHO TALK ABOUT
"WAR CRIMES" AIN'T
NEVER REALLY BEEN IN
THE @&#%, AM I
RIGHT? I MEAN,
YOU TELL ME...



NOT THAT
ANY OF US
COULD'VE.

...HOW CAN
SOMETHING
BE A CRIME
WHEN IT FEELS
SO DAMN
GOOD?



FOR A FEW MOMENTS...
A FEW ROUNDS OF
SCREAMS AND WHIMPERS
AND SICKENING THUDS...
NO ONE MOVED.

WE ALL JUST
SAT THERE,
MESMERIZED.

IT SEEMED
ALMOST RUDE
TO DISTURB HIM.

LIKE INTERRUPTING
A HOLY MAN WHEN HE
WAS BUSY DELIVERING
THE WORD OF GOD.



IT TOOK TEN OF
THEM TO DRAG
HIM AWAY.

HE NEVER
SAW ME.

BUT I
SAW HIM.

I SAW FRANK
CASTLE, THE MAN
I'D MARRIED.

PERHAPS
FOR THE VERY
FIRST TIME.



THAT NIGHT, HE SLEPT
LIKE A ROCK, PERHAPS
FEELING MORE WHOLE
THAN HE HAD IN MONTHS.

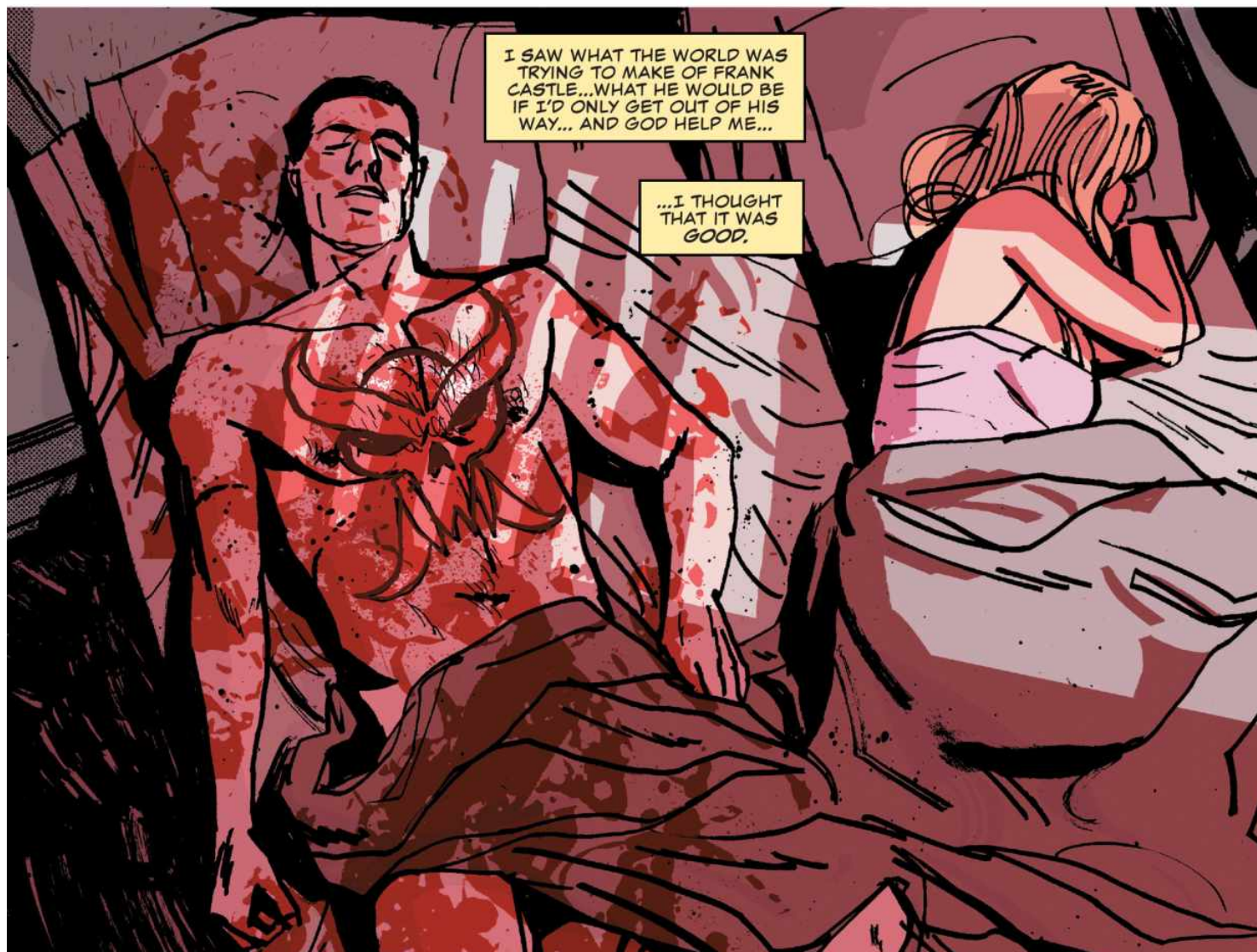
I NEVER SAID A WORD
ABOUT BEING THERE.
NEVER CONFRONTED HIM
ABOUT THE EXECUTIONS.



I WAS FRIGHTENED. BUT NOT
JUST BY THE RAGE I'D SEEN
IN HIS EYES. THE MURDEROUS
FURY OF HIS FISTS.

WHAT TRULY FRIGHTENED ME
WAS THAT...FOR A MOMENT,
WATCHING HIM ALMOST
KILL THAT HORRIBLE MAN...

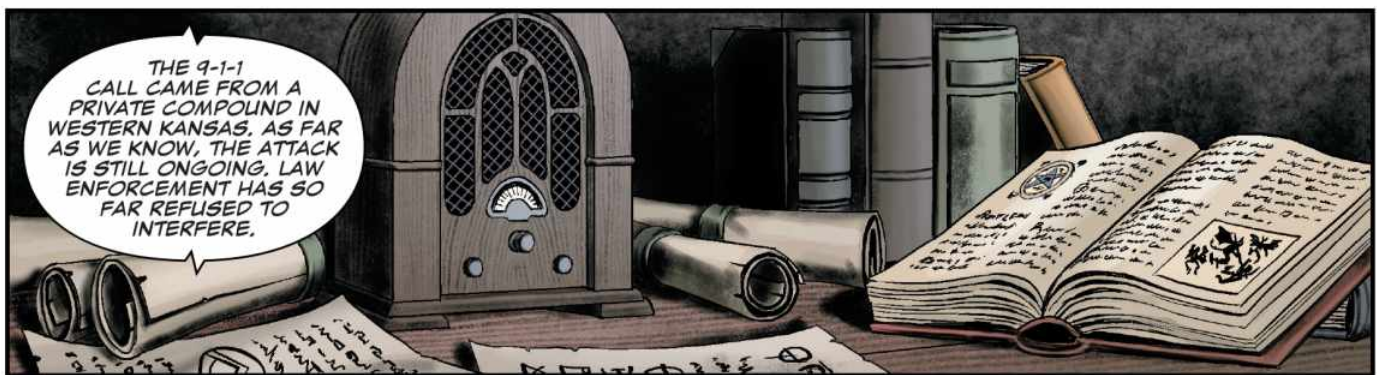
...I LIKED IT.



I SAW WHAT THE WORLD WAS
TRYING TO MAKE OF FRANK
CASTLE...WHAT HE WOULD BE
IF I'D ONLY GET OUT OF HIS
WAY... AND GOD HELP ME...

...I THOUGHT
THAT IT WAS
GOOD.





THE 9-1-1
CALL CAME FROM A
PRIVATE COMPOUND IN
WESTERN KANSAS. AS FAR
AS WE KNOW, THE ATTACK
IS STILL ONGOING. LAW
ENFORCEMENT HAS SO
FAR REFUSED TO
INTERFERE.



THERE IS NO
WORD YET ON WHO
OCCUPIES THE COMPOUND
OR WHY IT WOULD BE OF
INTEREST TO THE
PUNISHER.

IT IS THE
HEADQUARTERS OF A
SECRET CULT OF HEARTLAND
SUPREMACISTS. YET TO
MAKE THEMSELVES KNOWN
TO THE WORLD.



HE USED
THE EYES OF
THE BEAST TO
FIND THEM.

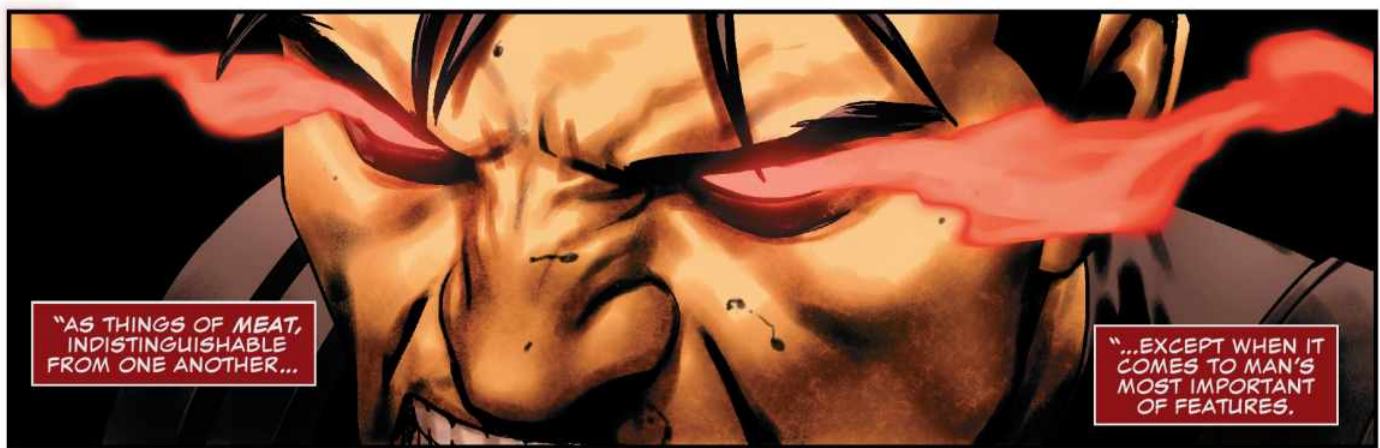
AT LAST
UNLEASHING
THE FULL EXTENT
OF THE FIRST OF
HIS GIFTS.

WHICH
MEANS HE IS
READY...



"...TO TAKE
THE FINAL
STEP."





"AS THINGS OF MEAT,
INDISTINGUISHABLE
FROM ONE ANOTHER..."

"...EXCEPT WHEN IT
COMES TO MAN'S
MOST IMPORTANT
OF FEATURES.



"HIS *SINS*."

I
KILL.

I
KILL AND
HATE.

I KILL AND
COVET AND HATE
AND HURT.



"THE ONES
THEY'VE ALREADY
COMMITTED.

"AND EVEN THE
BLESSED ONES
YET TO BE.



"THE SINS THAT ARE
STILL JUST DREAMS
AND LONGINGS WITHIN
THEIR INSIDES.



"ONCE THE PUNISHER KILLS THE
SINFUL FOR WHAT IS IN THEIR
HEARTS...HE WILL HAVE CAST ASIDE
ALL EARTHLY THINGS...AND BECOME
THE BEAST'S GOSPEL MADE FLESH.



"THE HIGH
PRIEST OF THE
RED WORSHIP.



"DELIVERER OF
THE SACRAMENTS
OF STEEL.



"AFTER TODAY...
THERE WILL BE NO
MORE QUESTION
OF WHO DESERVES
TO SIT UPON THE
SICKLY THRONE.



"ALL HAIL THE
FIST OF THE
BEAST.
LORD HIGH
SLAYER OF
THE HAND.







NEXT:

PUNISHER

#11



FRANK CASTLE HAS FINALLY EMBRACED THE ROLE OF FIST OF THE BEAST, THE HIGH SLAYER OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL CLAN OF MURDERERS, THE HAND. AND THE REST OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE HAS TAKEN NOTICE. IF FRANK REALLY WANTS TO END HIS WAR ONCE AND FOR ALL, HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT HIS WAY THROUGH SOME OLD FRIENDS.

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

